

Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee
Minutes of Monday, November 14, 2005

The Leesburg Standing Residential Traffic Committee met on Monday, November 14, 2005, in the Lower Level Conference Room of the Municipal Government Center, 25 West Market Street, Leesburg, Virginia. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present

Elizabeth Whiting, Chair
Sandy Kane, Vice Chair
Planning Commissioner Brett Burk
Brian Rolston

Town Staff Present

Calvin Grow
Mike Bomgardner
Nick Colonna
Mark McCartney

1. *Minutes:* On motion by Sandy Kane, seconded by Brett Burk, the minutes for the October 3, 2005 meeting unanimously were approved as corrected to note that Mike Bomgardner introduced Sean Baroody, the new traffic technician to the Committee.
2. *Public Comment:* There was no public comment. Sandy Kane asked that her email correspondence from Jeff McCarthy and Lisa Hawthorne of 416 South King Street be entered in the minutes as public comment. The Committee agreed and asked that staff be prepared to respond to their questions at the December meeting.
3. *Ad Hoc S.W. Subcommittee update:* Dawn Barrett reported that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee met and unanimously forwarded the following recommendations to the Committee for their recommendation to the Town Council: (i) for present traffic calming installations, raised crosswalks where the golf-cart crossings intersect Bradfield Drive and Country Club Drive and a speed cushion on Governors Drive north of the intersection with Country Club Drive, with the first two given priority over the speed cushion if sufficient funds aren't available for all three; (ii) leaving the all-way stops previously installed in Greenway Farms with no change unless and until replacement measures are approved and constructed; and (iii) reassessing the neighborhoods' needs after these initial improvements have been in place, with speed studies before and after construction, and after traffic patterns have re-emerged after the Battlefield Parkway intersection at the Greenway ramp has been placed in service. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee felt that the level of resistance and misunderstanding evidenced in the neighborhood outreach meetings suggested that the best course of action is to introduce appropriate measures at locations where high speeds were measured but where little "not-in-my-front-yard" objection was announced. With documentation of reduced speeds and neighborhood acceptance thereafter, it would then be appropriate to take a fresh look at the larger neighborhood issues and solutions. The members agreed generally that they will be available to the Town Council to restaff this inquiry as appropriate. The Ad Hoc Subcommittee also forwarded the concern that delivery trucks and buses are perceived to be among the more aggressive drivers in the neighborhood and asked that appropriate action be taken to assess this observation and remedial measures be taken if warranted.

On *motion* by Sandy Kane, *seconded* by Nick Colonna, the Committee agreed generally to endorse the Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendations. However, with two raised asphalt features recently installed along Lawson Road and Marshall Drive, at Brian Rolston's suggestion the Committee agreed to advise the Council that it would forward recommendations on the Ad Hoc Subcommittee report after assessing the performance of these installed features after the winter season. Liz Whiting agreed to forward her draft letter to the Town Council to Dawn Barrett so that the Ad Hoc Subcommittee could decide whether they wanted to supplement their original report or would rely on the Committee's letter of presentation. The Committee agreed that the subcommittee had discharged its mission and thanked them for their hard work and willingness to serve further as the Council required.

4. *VRTA matters*: Mike Bomgardner forwarded figures provided by Greg McGowan regarding Trolley usage. Updated figures for both Safe-T-Ride and the Trolley will be requested on an ongoing basis for the future. Sandy Kane renewed her concern that fixed routes serving the southwest quadrant had never been considered other than running down Sycolin Road and noted that a large condominium/apartment project was coming on line. The Committee suggested asking that VRTA track on-request service sought from this area and considering adding to the fixed routes as patterns developed.

5. *Traffic Calming Budget Update*: Calvin Grow noted that only \$7,000.00 from the FY '06 budget of \$80,000.00 has been spent (See Item No. 8 below) and that all FY '05 funds have been spent. Projects identified in the FY '06 budget request were (1) construction of the Edwards Ferry Road/Plaza Street "pinchpoint" feature; (2) construction of an entry feature on North King Street; (3) Design of the southwest quadrant system and construction of the first features; and (4) design and construction of traffic calming on Kincaid Boulevard. The Parks & Recreation asked the Committee to table any proposal on Ida Lee property. Calvin Grow also noted that the Committee had talked about having Whitman Requardt and Associates (the Town's consulting engineers) draft a rating system along the line of Arlington or Alexandria so that projects could be ranked and recommended to the Council based on rank. Liz Whiting expressed interest in moving the "pinchpoint" project forward and that she would like to see the South King Street island reinstated unless the Crescent District plan is imminent and inconsistent with that improvement, arguing that this should be a signature feature at the entry into the historic downtown from the South. Given the ad hoc committee's recommendations, there is no reason to delay construction from this year's budget. Committee members should bring project prospects to the December meeting and, if possible, give staff an early heads up so that they can develop cost estimates.

6. *FY '07 Budget Request Update*: See discussion in Item 5 above.

7. *Smart trailer report*: Mark McCartney presented the results of the Smart trailer and Stealth Stat surveys. Mark McCartney and Mike Bomgardner noted that residents complaining that the Smart Trailer isn't placed at the right spot to capture the most egregious results probably don't realize that the Stealth Stat devices are overlooked in their placement on telephone poles or in the street (depending on the measuring unit

used) and that Engineering & Public Works devices are in the right locations when the data reported to the Committee are captured.

8. *Lawson Road update:* The Lawson Road raised crosswalk and on-street parking markings have been installed at the cost of \$7,000.00 from the FY '06 budget. Calvin Grow and Mike Bomgardner reported that they had been in touch with Mike Lunsford and his assistant at the L.C.P.S. transportation division regarding the request that the school bus location be moved to the north. No response has been forthcoming, so Calvin Grow agreed that part of his report back to neighborhood residents will be that they may want to pursue the bus stop relocation through other channels since the Town hadn't been able to learn anything of substance.

9. *Potomac Station Drive at Tonquin Drive speeding update:* Mike Bomgardner reported that the staff was unable to perform pedestrian counts crossing into the school property and will have these results for the December meeting. Calvin Grow also reported that the developer of the commercial property at the northeast quadrant of the intersection of Battlefield Parkway and Potomac Station Drive has expressed interest in incorporating a major pedestrian amenity in its plans that may break up the vehicular momentum from the north approaching the schools.

10. *Crosswalk and turn-lane request at 850 Edwards Ferry Road:* The staff report noted that the location where these improvements are requested is at a private entrance into the church property and that pedestrian signal improvements will be installed in the immediate future at the intersection of Heritage Way with Edwards Ferry Road. The Committee agreed that no further action should be considered until the effect of the signals can be assessed.

11. *Review of Residential Traffic Management Plan:* The Committee agreed that this must await appointment of members to the vacant northwest and southwest quadrant positions and replacement of an active fire/rescue participant, as well as lessons learned from the Ad Hoc Committee process. Liz Whiting will write Ricky Obaugh to ask him to seek a replacement if he cannot resume attendance.

10. *Committee concerns:* The Committee agreed that their website text should be re-written to note that in the event that the first Monday of the month is a holiday or immediately precedes the second Tuesday of the month, the Committee meeting likely will have been rescheduled and that residents should consult announcements or contact Town staff for information.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 p.m. The next meeting is Monday, December 19, 2005 at 7:00 p.m. Staff is to contact Liz Whiting if anything arises needing Committee consideration in the interim.